

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02054 201917Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /074 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1482

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02054

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: DRAFT MESSAGE FOR SOUTH AFRICA

REFS: (A) USUN 2049 (B) CAPETOWN 1016 (C) USUN 901

1. OUR MESSAGE (REFTEL A) INCORRECTLY SUGGESTED THAT YOU DRAW ON LANGUAGE USED IN PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH OF THE MESSAGE TO THE FRONTLINE STATES (REFTEL C). ACTUALLY THE CONTACT GROUP HAD AGREED TO SUGGEST THIS AS BACKGROUND FOR CAPE TOWN REPRESENTATIONS ONLY. THE PARA-
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02054 201917Z

GRAPH SHOWS WHY WE WISH TO AVOID USE OF "FINAL AND DEFINITIVE" LANGUAGE. WE AGREE THAT YOU SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT USE SUCH LANGUAGE WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

2. ALL HERE RECOGNIZE THAT YOU ARE IN TRICKY SITUATION, THOUGH, AS YOU KNOW, BRITISH ARE MORE INCLINED THAN OTHERS TO LEAN TOWARD BOTTOM LINE LANGUAGE. WE CERTAINLY

INTENDED, WHEN THE PROPOSAL WAS PRESENTED TO THE PARTIES, TO CONVEY THE VIEW THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS ABOUT THE BEST THAT COULD BE DEVELOPED UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND TO DISCOURAGE SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WERE ALWAYS CONSCIOUS OF THE POSSIBLE NEED FOR SOME REVISIONS AND NEVER USED THE TERMS "FINAL AND DEFINITIVE" AS SOUTH AFRICA HAS STATED. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO ENGAGE IN A SEMANTIC ARGUMENT WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS, BUT IN OUR VIEW THE USE OF THE TERMS "FINALIZED" AND "DEFINITIVE" IN OTHER CONTEXTS CONVEYS A DIFFERENT MEANING FROM THEIR USE OF "FINAL AND DEFINITIVE". IN ANY EVENT, WHILE WE MUST STILL TRY TO HOLD THE LINE, SOUTH AFRICA'S ATTACK ON CASSINGA HAS CHANGED THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE PROPOSAL WILL BE CONSIDERED.

3. REGARDING YOUR SUGGESTED RESPONSE (PARA TWO, REFTEL B), WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD AVOID BEING SO CATEGORIC. MOST IMPORTANT, WE DO NOT WISH TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE UNWILLING TO DISCUSS CHANGES, FOR AS WAS THE CASE OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS POWERS OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, WE MAY WISH TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED CHANGE WITH EITHER PARTY EVEN IF WE END UP REJECTING IT. LEONARD

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